

September 23, 2010

**Public Notice for Water Quality Certification and/or Waste
Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects)**

Cloverdale Heights Ranch Stream Ford Replacements Project
WDID No. 1B10050WNSO

Sonoma County

On May 11, 2010, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Matthew Damos of North Coast Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Mr. Mark Rafannelli of Cloverdale Heights, LLC (Applicant), requesting Federal Clean Water Act, section 401, Water Quality Certification (Certification) and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for activities associated with the Cloverdale Heights Ranch Stream Ford Replacement Project (project). Project is located on Cloverdale Creek, on Ehrman Road, in the city of Cloverdale, latitude 38.815160°N, longitude 123.03214° W, in Sonoma County. The proposed project will cause disturbances to waters of the United States associated with the Geyserville hydrologic subarea no. 114.25, Russian River in Hydrologic Unit No. 114.00.

The primary purpose of the proposed project is to install 257 linear feet of new culverts for the replacement of two large creek fords and improve the drainage and surface of the road along Cloverdale Creek and tributary creeks to reduce erosion and sediment delivery. Five new culverts will be installed and six culverts will be replaced. Approximately 1,400 feet of road will be moved out of the riparian zone to facilitate planting, restoration and reestablishment of a native riparian zone of approximately 1.15 acres. This will benefit the habitat of the watercourses by increasing shade, lowering ambient temperature, and providing increased stormwater treatment. The current road has a bare dirt surface and will be upgraded to a graveled road, which will reduce erosion and fine sediment delivery to the water courses. Installation of new culverts and replacement of wet ford crossings will also decrease current erosion and sedimentation.

The proposed project will result in permanent impacts to approximately 257 feet of linear creek bed and bank. Compensatory mitigation for the fill of linear watercourse will consist of the restoration of 1.15 acres of riparian area, replacement of fords by arched culverts with a one-foot deep natural gravel surface at the bottom, and reducing erosion and delivery of sediment from roads by applying a rock surface.

The Applicant has received an US Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit, NWP 14 – Linear Transportation Projects, on September 16, 2010. The applicant has also received a California Department of Fish and Game Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement, Notification No. 1600-2009-0267-03, on September 16, 2009.

Regional Water Board staff have determined that this project is categorically exempt from CEQA review (Section 15333 – small habitat restoration projects) and anticipate filing a Notice of Exemption for this project.

The information contained in this public notice is only a summary of the applicant's proposed activities. The application for Water Quality Certification in the Regional Water Board's file contains additional details about the proposed activities including maps and detailed drawings. The application and Regional Water Board file area available for public review.

Due to the nature of the project and the limited timeframe for implementation, Regional Water Board staff anticipates that certification will be issued in less than 21 days from the posting of this notice in order to complete the project before the rainy season. Regional Water Board staff are proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act authority. Pursuant to title 23, California Code of Regulations, section 3858, if a project requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with the issuance of certification. In addition, staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653 within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

100922_CloverdaleHeights_PN